

Measuring Poverty: New Work, Old Politics

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I. NAS Workshop

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A. Purpose

B. Consensus

C. Controversy

D. Other Groups in Same Arena:

More Political; Less Technical

E. Is There A Way Forward? YES



II. Poverty Thresholds (Garner)

- A. Oldest “Absolute Poverty” Threshold
in the Rich World: USA (‘55 and ‘63 Data)**
- B. Consistency: Change Resources
and Needs Together**
- C. Details, Details**
- D. Politics, Politics**



III. Estimating Resources (Short)

A. Consistency (Again)

**B. The Resource Measure:
Components of Income, Taxes and Work
Expenses**

C. Surprises and Questions

**D. Trends Are Similar but Levels Differ in
More Recent Years?**

E. Research Needs



IV. Summary

A. Importance of Technical Research vs. “Politics”

B. Importance of “Getting it Right”

- 1. Policy Impacts**
- 2. Societal Beliefs**

C. Keep Going, Please